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 Philadelphia, Tuesday, January 20, 1920

A CHANCE FOR BIG WORK
 THE unanimous election of Alva B. Johnson to the presidency of the Chamber of Commerce, together with the re-election of Nathaniel B. Kelly as general secretary, indicates that the affairs of the chamber will be managed in the immediate future as they have been managed in the past.

The attempt to put new men and new motives in control has not succeeded, apparently, for the reason that the members of the chamber are satisfied with the old policies.
 Mr. Johnson is confronted by a splendid opportunity to lead the chamber in a movement to co-operate with Mayor Moore in the execution of his plans for expanding the commercial life of the city. It is to be hoped that he will make the most of it and disarm those who have been, justly or unjustly, criticizing the past policy of the chamber.

WILHELM'S CUE TO COVER
 THE significant part of the letter demanding the surrender of the former kaiser by the Netherlands is the text of which has been made public in Paris, appears near the end.

The letter announces that it is the duty of the Entente powers to secure the person of Wilhelm and try him for his offenses "without allowing themselves to be stopped by argument."
 If this is not a peremptory demand then language has lost its meaning, and if it is not notice to the Netherlands Government that the Entente powers will take possession of the body of the former kaiser, if they cannot get it otherwise, then it does not mean anything.

NOT A MILITARY AUTOCRACY
 IF THE military men had their way all plans for the management and development of the land and sea forces of the nation would be under their control. Generally they have no great regard for the civilian point of view. So far as involves technical affairs they may have justification. But in all matters of larger policy the civilian control must remain.

This is a government of civilians and not a military autocracy. A few men with military experience have been elected to the presidency and to the chief command of all the military forces of the nation, but they have been elected as civilians rather than as military men, and as presidents they have taken the civilian point of view.
 The secretary of war and the secretary of the navy have, as a rule, been civilians. General Grant and General Sherman, it is true, served as secretary of war, but it was in the period immediately following the end of the war between the states. It will be well to keep these principles clearly in mind during the next few weeks, when much is likely to be heard in Washington about the "interference" of civilians in the direction of naval affairs.

BEFORE OR AFTER ADAM?
 IN THESE days when high commissions are appointed to adjudicate differences it is desirable that some competent authority should name an expert commission to judge between the theories of Barrie and those of the ancient Sumerians regarding the origin of woman.

Barrie, in "What Every Woman Knows," says that the biblical account is wrong, as woman was created, not from man's rib, but from his funny bone. The Sumerians, on the other hand, as disclosed by a translation of the inscriptions in the tablets in the University of Pennsylvania Museum, used to insist that the woman came first and that she created the man.

Without going into first causes, it is well known that many a woman insists that she made her husband. He was nothing but an inconsequent congeries of unrelated energies till she got hold of him. Under her tuition he became successful in business or in art or in literature. And the gallant man has been known to admit that the woman was right.

AN EASY WAY OUT
 STUDENTS of taxation outside of Congress are beginning to advocate the substitution of a consumption tax for the excess-profits tax in the revenue laws.
 The excess-profits tax is not working satisfactorily. It is difficult for the business man to compute it in accordance with the complicated provisions of the law. It is comparatively easy for the bookkeepers, acting on instructions, to conceal the actual profits of a firm or corporation and thus reduce the amount equitably due the government under the law. And its soundness in theory is seriously questioned.

A direct tax on consumption, on the other hand, would be easy to collect and it would yield a large sum even if it were no greater than 1 per cent. The estimate is that if retail sales were taxed 1 per cent the total annual yield would be one and a quarter billion dollars. And the tax would be levied on all sales it

would yield three and a half billion dollars.
 We have such a tax now applied to drugs and medicines, but it is 4 per cent instead of 1 per cent. The druggist adds the tax to the retail price of the article sold and affixes a revenue stamp to the package as evidence that the tax has been paid.

A 2 per cent tax on all sales would yield seven billion dollars. The sum needed to meet the expenses of the government for the current year is about five and a half billions and for next year the estimate is about a billion dollars less. The 2 per cent tax would yield a large surplus, which could be used to reduce the war debt so that in a few years all taxes could be scaled down as a result of the constantly decreasing amount of interest on the war bonds. Congress is likely to be urged to give serious consideration to the consumption tax before the present session ends.

DEEP-ROOTED INFECTIONS GRIP THE CITY'S POLICE

Director Cortelyou is Learning That Words Are of Little Use in Cases That Require Quick Surgery
 MOST laymen insist on believing, through thick and thin, that the police department is an agency intended by its officers to maintain law and order. It has been generations since any routine healer in Philadelphia politics held any such view of the service.

To bosses and sub-bosses the police department has appeared as a handy and pliable auxiliary sent by Providence to strengthen the narrow groups that survive and grow rich by careful lawlessness and through raids on the city's treasury.
 The extraordinary spectacle that preceded the sudden suspension of the police lieutenant of the Second district yesterday is thus easily explainable. Lieutenant Echtermeyer, Superintendent Robinson and Imber, the magistrate, were revealed not only as the protectors of a patrolman charged with a brutal violation of the code which he was sworn to obey, but as the energetic defenders of a system that has left many divisions of the service inefficient, corrupt and demoralized.

Echtermeyer was suspended; Schwartz, the accused policeman, was suspended; Robinson, who remains at City Hall only because his friends pleaded that he be permitted to serve until February, when he can retire with the privileges of the police pension fund, should have been promptly suspended with the other.
 It becomes plainer daily that if Director Cortelyou wishes to reclaim the police from the influence of consciousness and belligerent faction he will have to use harsh methods. His efforts at conciliation have failed.

The degradation of the police service has been swift in recent years, especially in the downtown districts. A man who entered the department had to be approved by ward and division men. Evidently he was made to feel that he was a beneficiary of a secret system; that he had to obey unwritten laws and statutes, with the authority of his uniform, his badge and his club, if necessary, the feudal scheme in which he was a detail.

He could be faithful to his obligations only when those obligations didn't conflict with the interests of the bond which frankly assumed to control him. No one had a chance who disputed this rule, which had a traditional validity even before the day of the Vares.
 Yet to indict the whole department, or even a considerable part of it, because of the Echtermeyers and the Schwartzes is to display ignorance of the police system and the motives animating its personnel. There are innumerable self-respecting men in the service who have managed to hold their places without being overzealous in the execution of political orders. They are a majority. And they, too, desire the sort of clean-up which Director Cortelyou is promising.

A thug in police uniform is a poor sort of press agent for the department. Until the thugs are rooted out they will continue to put their decent associates in a bad light.
 The increase of violent crime shows what factional politics can do to a police system when it is left unhampered for a long period. There is a definite relation of cause and effect between recent highway robberies and daylight burglaries and the system of police administration which Robinson, Imber and Echtermeyer were not ashamed to defend in the course of an action brought by relatives and friends of Doctor Morris.

If the police department has been slack it is because there seldom has been a man at the top with the force of character and intelligence necessary to conduct the old City Councils of the needs of its various units. The traffic squad, one division of the service that has gone far to redeem the others in public estimation, is still without even a modern system of street signals. The whole organization is behind the times in general equipment. The decline of morale has been general in the districts and this is due to political interference at the top as well as at the bottom.

It is fashionable to blame the department as a whole for conditions that permit thieves in motorcars to raid business houses even in the central streets. But a patrolman on a beat has no means of dealing with yeggmen in a sixty-mile automobile. To the decadence and inefficiency of detective contingents such crimes are almost invariably due.
 Plain-clothes squads are organized to keep track of the goings and comings of underworld adventurers. In any city where the detective bureaus are properly manned and organized, thieves of the sort that have been harassing this city are tracked and jailed or hustled out of town before they have even an opportunity to begin operations. Here the plain-clothes contingents have been made up largely of political favorites advanced to important positions, not because of their fitness for exacting details of police work, but because they have been able to claim recognition for political service.
 Director Cortelyou threatened a sweeping change and general transfer of police officials in the various districts. Then for some unknown reason, he relented. Echtermeyer and his kind show him that he will have to go through with his program.
 There seems to be a good deal of fight

and not a little hope remaining in the old guard. The events in the Second district show that the old regime still has its grip on a good part of the police machinery.
 Who are the decent men on the force to obey? Do they owe their first duty to the city or to factional leaders?
 Somebody will have to answer such questions and answer them now and with authority.

FRANCE AND THE "TIGER"

THE fine French sense of the fitness of things seems in abeyance. At least that is how the outsider is apt to view the selection of Paul Deschanel for the presidency over Georges Clemenceau. The latter has given to France so much that surely, according to foreign comment, it was ungracious to deny him poetic justice. As president of the republic he would have occupied a post at once easy and replete with honor.
 But the old France that thrilled at a "gesture," rose to the man on horseback and even longed at times for a dictator is gone. French interest in the dramatic and picturesque is artistically, perhaps, as strong as ever, but it is divorced to a considerable extent from the channels of statesmanship.

As the page of history is unrolled, the world may come to realize what this repudiation of the showy and the spectacular meant to civilization in 1914. The mercurial France of yore would probably have been defeated at the first Marne.
 And so Georges Clemenceau ends his political career without a culminating accolade from the nation he so passionately adores, the nation for which he in one of its darkest hours was a prime instrument of salvation.

France is fearful of favorites, even those of undisputed brilliancy and capacity. The defeat of the "Tiger" may in part be attributed to this attitude. Clemenceau ruled with superb authority. The step from that to autocracy is too easily taken for French contentment of mind. Save in crucial moments of national peril even mediocrity is preferred in the republic.
 Paul Deschanel, however, can hardly be called mediocre. On the whole he is a more vigorous statesman than Raymond Poincare. He has literary gifts of a first-rate order, which have admitted him to the French Academy. He is politically seasoned and politically on a different side of the fence from the group which recently held the reins of office. It is this last circumstance which appears to have been chiefly responsible for his victory.

In office, indeed, he may execute many of the Clemenceau policies, but he represents the change of line-up and rotation in leadership, which, provided it is accomplished calmly and with due process of law, is what France has desired through the recent years of the Third Republic. It must be considered also that the chances of M. Clemenceau's dying of old age before the expiration of the seven-year term would have been considerable. The nation has lost a taste for the sudden irregularities which it used to capitalize so dramatically.

As for the "Tiger," his fame is secure, and France, perhaps overtimid, overcautious, overzealous to prove her independence of alluring personalities, can idolize him in security.
 No honest man thinks himself degraded because the presence of a policeman on the street is indication that there may be dishonest men around. Which somewhat discounts the attempt to establish an honor code in the University of Pennsylvania. If no student under any circumstances would cheat, the taking of a pledge is at once a piece of supererogation and an insult. If here and there and now and then it develops that a cheat finds place among honest men, supervision becomes necessary for the well-being of all.

The Good Ship Swivel Chair
 As certain administration organs show a disposition to play off ice, it may be well to note that Admiral Sims is not attacking the navy. He knows and loves it too well for that. His guns are trained on those who never heard any.

Where the Work Cools
 A New York artist has just turned down a \$200,000 job so that he may complete a task that has already taken him eleven years and for which he has received no salary. When the next one feels inclined to sneer at talk of "art for art's sake" this little incident may give one pause.

Who Is Hiding the News?
 Officials of the Department of Justice declare that food prices are dropping. They have doubtless special sources of information. Housewives have not yet discovered the fact.

Sims Like
 When a man has bottled his tale for years there need be no surprise that an explosion ensues when at last the cork flies out.

There may be difference of opinion as to the wisdom of the action of Admiral Sims. There can be no question as to the wisdom of taking a thorough investigation of the charges made.

Tips must be included in computing income, says the revenue man. It will cheer you to know that the hat-check collector will have to part with a little of it.

Perhaps the Dutch will strive to make Wilhelm believe that if he voluntarily places his head in a noose the allied powers will refrain from pulling the rope.

Paste this on the handle of your lawn mower for consideration early next summer: Dandelions saved last year's honey crop in Kansas.

Now that Kentucky and Arkansas have ratified the nineteenth amendment, woman suffragists have next to nothing to worry about.

Snow is a country girl. She never seems to get used to the city.

Mr. Bryan is vigorous in his denunciation of the profiteer, but just a little heavy in the matter of suggesting a remedy.

The lifting of the blockade will at least enable the outside world to know something of what is happening in Russia.

Every winder of the snow shovel favors the straight and narrow path.

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BATTLES OF RETROSPECT

The Present-Navy Scandal is One of a Long Series of the Inquisitorial and Bitter Wars of Peace

REPUTATIONS gained in armed strife are never really safe until the war after the war has been fought to a finish.
 Our recent progress forward embittered commissions, indignant courts of inquiry and dramatic probes, while perhaps inevitable, has been abnormally slow. More than a year after the shot in the universal conflict Admiral Sims speaks out frankly and frankly, who might have been under the erroneous impression that everything was settled, is forced to withdraw to a back seat until all the returns are in—until they are duly analyzed and rendered scandal-proof.
 It was always thus. In the Spanish War of '98 there was not even an illusory period of calm preceding exposure. The battles of reputations began in the very midst of the actual fray of the armed belligerents.

WHO won the sea fight off Santiago?
 Three years after that swarming victory the point was still officially undecided, and when the court of inquiry did enter a verdict, in 1901, the average civilian in this nation was thoroughly displeased. What nobody could stand, however, was more argument on the theme, and John D. Long, secretary of the navy, was especially unpopular. His sentiment in urging that no further proceedings be held.
 The majority report had called Winfield Scott Schley "self-possessed" in the famous battle and had commended him for encouragement to his men, but every specific charge raised against him was officially reiterated. He was accused of "vacillation, dilatoriness and lack of enterprise" in his conduct of the campaign prior to June 1, 1898. He was censured for the much-discussed "loop" of the Revolution in the suggestion for "immaculate and misleading" reports and for failure to do all in his power to destroy the Spanish cruiser Colon on May 31.

What the court might have done to Admiral William T. Sampson had he not gone to Siboney on that thrilling July 3 to talk over the general situation with Shafter. It is, of course, impossible to postulate. His chance absence from the battle had given Schley the victory—and the blame. The Sampson partisans could adduce negative virtues, always unassailable in a controversy.
 Henry Cabot Lodge, as historian, was categorically among the champions of the superior officer, Schley, he declares, "was never technically in command for a single moment," adding that the commodore (as he then was) "never controlled or directed in the slightest degree the movements of any ship but the Brooklyn and exercised no general command whatever. It was a captain's fight without a single fleet movement directed by anybody."

The prominent author touches lightly on several of the other feuds of the war, much more lightly, indeed, than they were regarded at the time. Miles and Shafter were principals in one of these disputes. Senator Lodge merely mentions that General Miles took part in the negotiations which resulted in the surrender of Santiago. As a matter of fact, the situation was extremely delicate. Shafter's somewhat panicky dispatch after El Caney and San Juan Hill confirmed the supporters of General Miles in their belief that the head of the army had been side-tracked in costly fashion.
 But Senator Lodge, in his entertaining volume, "The Spanish War," was a generous patriotic mood. Apropos of the dispute over the peace treaty concluded in Paris on December 10, 1898, he averred that "the good sense of the American people made two points clear to them. One was that a peace treaty ought to be ratified."

**EXCEPT for the Sampson-Schley ructions the navy was fairly exempt from criticism during the brief brush with Spain. But the army was continually in critical hot water. Denunciation raged particularly about Russell A. Alger, secretary of war. He was blamed for the ill-sustained campaign in Haiti, it seems, for bad weather, and surely for "embalmed beef."
 Moreover, although it was the corps commander to whom the "round robin," demanding the removal of the army from Haiti after the surrender, was addressed, it was Alger, who suffered largely by "exposure." Wheeler, Chaffee, Lawton, Wood and Roosevelt were among the army officers signatory to the sensational communication forecasting the destruction of our troops by yellow fever unless they were quickly transported to a healthier climate.**

**THE Spanish War looms large in sea-natal, possibly because the comparative brevity of the conflict was favorable to alarms. It is more difficult to launch sensations when the nation is actually in peril. They are concomitants of peace after a major crisis. Nevertheless, McClellan made things lively for the probers in the midst of the great rebellion. "George, whom Providence helps according to his nature," wrote Horace Greeley in 1862, "has got himself on one side of a ditch (the Potomac river) which Providence had already made for him, with the enemy on the other, and has no idea of moving. Wooden-Head (Halleck) at Washington will never think of sending a force through the mountains to attack him in the rear."
 Lincoln, though less violently, acquired something of the Tribune's viewpoint after Antietam, and McClellan, after his second trial, was removed. The controversy moved into politics with the result that "Little Mac," the people's pride, adopted the platform "the war's a failure," ran against the incumbent for the White House for president in 1864 and was overwhelmingly defeated.
 But the almost interminable wrangle arising out of Civil War campaigns concerned General John Porter, accused of fatal delay before the battle of Second Bull Run. Porter was court-martialed on November 27, 1862, and was sentenced to be cashiered and to be disqualified forever from holding any office of trust or profit under the government of the United States." The president approved the sentence.
 Porter frequently appealed for a review of his case. A board of army officers headed by Schofield exonerated him in 1878. Congress took no action. In 1886 Cleveland approved an act for relief of Fitz John Porter and he was reinstated in the army with a rank of colonel of infantry.**

Earlier years brought their regulation crops of scandals. Washington was almost ousted from command by the intrigues of the Conway Cabal headed by Patrick Conroy, a Taylor at that time was considered former constructing Gates's victory at Saratoga with the almost contemporaneous reverses at Brandywine and Germantown. The collapse of the conspiracy left Conway in disgrace and he withdrew from the service in 1778.

ZACHARY TAYLOR entertained no especially kindly feelings for Winfield Scott when the latter caused the depletion of the American forces and happily withdrew to the battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War. It was Scott who delivered the "coup de grace" to Mexico by capturing the capital. Taylor at that time was considered a hero and he was reinstated in the army with a rank of colonel of infantry.
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THE CHAFFING DISH

ADMIRAL SIMS
 Gives Uncle Sam's Naval chiefs Some hearty damns.
WILLIAM HOPE that Sam's Reply to Sims Will not be merely Gospel hymns.
 There is only one way to avoid post-bellum squabbles among war leaders. Lose the war.
 Or better still, don't have a war.

Wild Votes
 Said Deschanel: To Clemenceau: I reap the wild Votes that you sow.
 We always had a suspicion that when the time came to try the Kaiser he would be found wanting.
QUIZ WOUNDED MEN, says a headline in our friend the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER. Presumably, suggests G. W. D., because they couldn't answer it.
 The fierce light that beats upon the Quiz grows daily more intense. The Quizeditor is beginning to grow self-conscious, and will never be surprised to see him put on his white vest margins again.

Putting Lieut Where He Belongs
 It's blowy and snowy and sparkling outside; I smell in the kitchen potatoes, French fried;
 My skates are new sharpened, the ice is smooth as grey—
 Who cares about cynics a day like today?
MARJORINE.
 Marjorine's potatoes, we suppose, are fried in margarine.
 Dove Duleet tells us that the most troublesome moments he ever has are when he is trying to make up his mind whether to return some book that a friend lent him and which the friend has forgotten all about.

A Battle Hymn for the Sex
 (with apologies to J. W. H.)
 MINE eyes have seen the conflict raging at night in the Dish.
 And for many days I've smothered a well-nigh consuming wish
 To forget my early training, and exclaim aloud: "Poor fish! he's marching on!"
 The "suffs" are marching on!
 Lieut. and Bill should take example from our good old friend Will Low.
 Or from clever Harold Wiegand and his charming billets-doux:
 Why do they start a tempest that someday they'll surely rue?
 For the "suffs" are marching on.

Desk Mottos. They are interrupting our agreeable delvings into the Great Minds.
Great Moments in History
 One good nocturne deserves another, said Chopin as he sat down at the piano.
 In the course of a long career of crime we have never heard anything more terrible than the following couplet, which Ben Zeen came panting into our office to give us. Thus:
 Slap Joe Daniels on the wrist—he's Uncle Sam's son Agonistes.
 Our genial elevator boy had a big night recently. He went to see "Madame X" at the Danbar Theatre and was pressed to put his criticism on paper. After some meditation he produced the following: "Madame X," the dramatic triumph of the century."

Quelle Vie
 "THIS," said I wearily.
 Slamming the desk cover
 At the day's end,
 "A dog's life!"
 Instantly I knew
 That in my heart
 I had done a great injustice
 To the most estimable
 Of beasts.
NO DOG would seriously think of working as hard as I do.
CURFEW.

Stars
 My window in the country
 Is a treasure chest of stars;
 They heap and blare and tangle
 Through the trees' sagging bars.
 My window in the city
 Holds just one—a lonely light,
 But it makes the ragged roof tops
 Silver lacelle at night.
WINIFRED WELLES.

Social Chat
 Hank Harris, the well-known commuter on the Cider and Bloodshot, has bought a first edition of William McFee's "Casuals of the Sea," London, 1918. This makes Hank no plus ultra among all our clients. We would even print a poem by him if he should ever write one.
 We wish to call the attention of our friend Rev. Robert Norwood to the fact that the Gumps are coming to a local theatre next week. We are hoping passionately that Uncle Elm will be in the cast.
 Our friend Lolita Westman is playing the part of Pollyanna out at the Walnut so we warn our clients not to waste time ringing us up next matinee afternoon.

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
 1. The word "cop" as applied to a policeman is derived from the expression "to get copped," meaning caught. This word is from the Latin "cappere," to take.
 2. A rondeau is a ten or thirteen line poem with only two rhymes throughout and the opening words used twice as a refrain.
 3. Mohammed II was the first Turkish ruler of Constantinople, which city he and his army captured from the Greeks in 1453.
 4. The expression "Barkis is willin'" is from Dickens's "David Copperfield" and is used by Barkis, the shy author of Peggoty.
 5. Catherine the Great was Catherine II of Russia. Her dates are 1729-1796.
 6. It is 4778 nautical miles to the Janeiro route from New York to the Atlantic.
 7. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were surveyors in early life.
 8. Susan Warner, an American novelist, published "Queechy" in 1852. It was one of the "best sellers" of its time.
 9. Paul Deschanel is the new President of France.
 10. The date generally given for the creation of the world is 20 A. D.

What Do You Know?
 Of course, all statesmen are wise, but here and there and now and then one notices that desire for office will warp judgment.
 There is a time to be silent and a time to talk. Admiral Sims appears to have obeyed both rules.
What Do You Know?
 1. What is the sun's apparent yearly path among the stars called?
 2. What is the word for a spy?
 3. Who is the new premier of France?
 4. Name two cities of Turkestan where the Russian Bolsheviks are said to be in control.
 5. What are wattles?
 6. Where and what is "Spion Kop"?
 7. Who wrote "The Prince and the Pauper"?
 8. Who were the contestants in a desperate battle fought there?
 9. In which direction was the Lusitania traveling when she was sunk by a German submarine in May, 1915?
 10. What is the meaning of the word "otiose"?

R. S. V. P.
THE GIRL FROM GIPPSLAND
 GIPPSLAND forests are far away,
 But oh! remember the great gum-trees,
 The leafy towers that stand and sway.
 The starry blossoms, a-swarm with bees;
 Remember always the clearing wide,
 The song in the timber that comes and goes.
 The storm-wind's song on the mountain-side
 That only the girl from Gippsland knows!
 The plains are sunny and blue skies mild,
 New friends are many and youth must roam,
 And only once in a long, long while
 A young heart thinks of a far-off home.
 But the plain-wind rises silently,
 Bitter and chill in the dusk it blows,
 And then how homesick a heart can be
 Only the girl from Gippsland knows!
 —Sydney Bulletin.

Doctor Landis, of the Henry Phipps Institute, says the use of prunes will cut milk cost. "Come to think of it," says the Biblical One, "that has been my experience, too."

Here and there there are Democrats who get a sardonic satisfaction in the thought that Bryan may get the Democratic nomination. At least they will have the pleasure of voting against him.
 Father Neptune's attack on the freighter Yarmouth, indented with \$2,000,000 worth of liquor, may have been due to the old gentleman's desire to store away a stock in Davey Jones's locker.
 The soviet ark landed in Hango, Finland, but, unfortunately, the Reds had no Schoolmaster Squeers among them to give application to the lesson suggested.

John Bull would find the Russian Bear as unwelcome in India wearing a red cap as wearing a crown; which may explain a recent new world-war scare.
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